

SENATE RESOLUTION 175

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Tamra Patterson upon winning the top prize on the television program *Chopped*.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body take great pride in specially recognizing those individuals whose exemplary achievements bring national acclaim to themselves, their communities, and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such exceptional individual is Tamra Patterson, who recently became the first contestant from the City of Memphis to take home the top prize on the Food Network's popular television show *Chopped*; and

WHEREAS, known to most Memphians as Chef Tam, Ms. Patterson competed against four other chefs and won the big prize of \$10,000 on the April 5, 2022, episode; and

WHEREAS, the chef and owner of Chef Tam's Underground Café in downtown Memphis, Tamra Patterson has made a name for herself with her creative Southern soul food dishes since opening her restaurant in March 2017; and

WHEREAS, although this was Chef Tam's first appearance on *Chopped*, it was not her first time on the Food Network, as she has competed on three different episodes of *Guy's Grocery Games*, even winning once; she was also a contestant on the Oprah Winfrey Network's *Great American Cookout*; and

WHEREAS, on the *Chopped* episode titled "Epic BLT Battle," the chefs found BLT-themed ingredients in every basket and were encouraged to celebrate the classic flavor combination in their dishes; in the first round, Chef Tam wowed the judges with her fried mac-n-cheese ball served with a sriracha-tomato sauce; and

WHEREAS, for the next round, the challenge was to create an entrée from sandwich ingredients, which included pork belly, a lettuce bouquet, tomato vodka, and beets; after creating what she called "a play on shrimp and grits," consisting of cheddar grits with a tomato vodka-beet cream sauce topped with crispy pork belly and crispy fried kale chips, Chef Tamra Patterson easily moved on to the dessert round; and

WHEREAS, for that final round, bacon grease, lettuce-flavored ice cream, roasted tomatoes, and strawberry milk powder were the mysterious basket ingredients; Chef Tam was up against a pastry chef, but she overcame her apprehensions and avoided the final chopping block by creating a stuffed French toast BLT filled with a strawberry and tomato puree and topped with a lettuce whipped cream and candied bacon; and

WHEREAS, Tamra Patterson rightfully takes pride in being the newest *Chopped* champion, but she has never been one to rest on her laurels; in the past year alone, she has launched a line of cookware, started a collection of juices, and opened a second Chef Tam's Underground Café in Arlington, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Tamra Patterson epitomizes the spirit and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Ms. Patterson on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and congratulate Tamra Patterson upon winning the top prize on the television program *Chopped* and extend to her our best wishes for continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.